

## **REMARKS**

New independent claims 43, 47 emphasize that the first symbol data produced by the first portable reader is transmitted to the host computer over both a wireless connection and a hard-wired connection. Neither Japanese Patent No. JP6-52343 to Asai, nor U.S. Patent No. 5,640,002 to Ruppert, discloses the invention as now claimed.

As the Examiner acknowledged, Asai fails to teach that the data is “transmitted from the first reader to the second reader over a wireless connection”, and also fails to teach that the data is “transmitted to the host computer through a wired connection (p. 3, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of action)”.

Applicants’ invention has particular utility when the first portable reader is out of range with the host computer and thus cannot directly transfer data thereto. In such an event, the first reader will communicate with the second reader that is within range and, then, the second reader will complete the task of transmitting the data to the host. This feature is not shown in, or suggested by, the newly cited prior art.

At best, Asai teaches that first reader A sends first symbol data to second reader B. Reader B reads the “same” symbol and generates second symbol data. If the first and second symbol data match, then the second symbol data is sent to a host.

To repeat, the first symbol data of Asai is not sent to the host. The first symbol data is merely used as a reference against which the second symbol data is compared. The first and second symbols are the “same”, not different as also claimed by applicants.

As for Ruppert, only a single reader is disclosed. This reader communicates with a host either by a wireless connection, or by a wired connection, but not by both connections. There is no second reader to receive data transmitted by a first reader.

Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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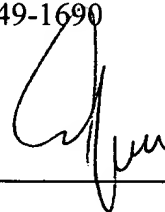
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Israel', is written over a horizontal line.

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